

Chapter VI.

Trade.

Articles.

Bombay from Belgaum, Dhárwár, and other inland districts; piece-goods, valued at £27,215 or 2·74 per cent of the exports, mostly from Belgaum and Dhárwár to Ratnágiri and Malabár ports; coloured wares, valued at £10,561 or 1·06 per cent of the exports, sent chiefly to Bombay; rice, both husked and unhusked, valued at £35,129 or 3·54 per cent of the exports, sent to the Konkan and Malabár ports and to the districts above the Sahyádris; spices, valued at £218,031 or 21·99 per cent of the exports, sent chiefly to Bombay; and other miscellaneous articles, valued at £21,896, sent mostly to Konkan and Malabár ports.

Of £449,243, the total value of imports, the chief articles are twist and yarn, valued at £62,653 or 13·94 per cent of the imports, brought from Bombay to be made into hand-woven cloth; piece-goods, valued at £57,164 or 12·72 per cent of the imports, brought from Bombay for local use and for inland transport to Belgaum and Dhárwár; unhusked rice, valued at £11,513 or 2·56 per cent, brought from Malabár ports for inland transport to the districts above the Sahyádris; raw metals, chiefly brass and copper, valued at £28,491 or 6·34 per cent of the imports, imported from Bombay to be made into cooking, water, and other vessels; oil and oilseeds, valued at £17,782 or 3·95 per cent, brought from Bombay and Kochin for local use and for inland transport; salt, valued at £14,437 or 3·21 per cent, brought from Kumta for local use; silk goods, valued at £32,866 or 7·31 per cent, brought from Bombay and Madras; and spices, valued at £17,803 or 3·96 per cent, brought from Bombay and Malabár ports for local use and inland transport to Belgaum and Dhárwár:

Imports.

Kánara Articles of Sea Trade, 1880-81.

ARTICLE.	Imports.	Exports.	ARTICLE.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
Live Stock	24	32	Sacking, &c.	10,305	905
Coals	40	...	Spirits and Liquors	2360	42
Coir and Rope	1743	1751	Metals	28,491	2225
Cotton Raw	1859	641,099	Oil and Oil-seeds	17,782	9485
Twist and Yarn	62,653	78	Cocoanuts	4579	1363
Piece-goods	57,164	27,215	Clarified Butter	560	875
Drugs and Medicines	1927	1251	Fish, Salted	207	139
Dyeing and Colouring	5896	10,561	" Dried	245	651
Fruits and Vegetables	9694	2804	" Fresh	1885	1219
Grain—			Salt	14,437	2081
Rice husked	156	22,611	Silk Goods	32,866	103
" unhusked	11,513	12,518	Spices	17,803	218,031
Wheat	1291	668	Sugar and Sugarcandy	7543	1989
Millet	130	26	Tobacco	8344	771
Pulse	2283	594	Timber	1538	4645
Other Grain	2053	2542	Machinery & Mill-work	113	216
Gums and Resins	1388	616	Wool	4470	184
Hardware and Cutlery	1528	40	Miscellaneous	139,643	21,906
Hemp	21	...			
Hides	311	489	Total	449,243	991,205

¹ Kánara is not a manufacturing district. The only craft for which it is known is its sandalwood-carving. Other branches of industry which are worthy of notice are the working in metal, horn, cane, earth, and stone; oil-pressing; the making of molasses, catechu, and salt; sawing timber by steam; and the jail industries.

Crafts.

¹ Contributed by Mr. R. E. Candy, C.S. .

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Sandalwood
Carving.

For upwards of a century the sandalwood-carving of Kánara has been well known. The workers are the Gudgars or carvers who are found in small numbers in the sub-divisions of Sirsi, Siddápur, Honávar, Kumta, and Ankola, and who call themselves Chitars, Manu's name for artisans. They are said to have come from Goa after the establishment of Portuguese power. They carve sandalwood, ivory, and ebony with exquisite skill; they work on the lathe in wood making beautiful lacquered articles; and they make the pith crowns which are worn by bridegrooms, and the pith flowers and crests which are much used by the lower classes of Hindus during the *Shimga* holidays in March-April. They work the lathe with a bowstring of raw deer-hide, not like most carpenters with the help of a second workman. The articles made are work-boxes, cabinets, work-tables, watch-stands, glove-boxes, jewelry-boxes, writing-boxes, pen-holders, pen-stands, card-cases, chess-boards, paper-weights, paper-cutters, needle-cases, card-boxes, and various other articles. They vary in value from 2s. to £50 (Re.1-Rs.500). The carved work represents the gods and heroes of Hindu mythology, wild beasts, monkeys, parrots, and other birds, and creeper and flower traceries. The piece of sandalwood which is to be carved is carefully smoothed and polished with sand-paper and the pattern is sketched on it in pencil. The tools used in carving are of native make and are small and delicate like the needle used in English embroidery. The Gudgars generally work to order, seldom offering articles for sale except such as have been condemned by the person who ordered them. Their chief calling is engraving and painting. Although their sandalwood-carving is much liked by Europeans there is little local demand. Some of the articles carved by Subanna of Honávar which were sent to the 1867 Exhibition in Paris gained a silver medal.

Metal Work.

Goldsmiths are found in all towns and in almost all large villages. Some of the town goldsmiths are skilful workmen and make excellent ornamental gold and silver ware. Blacksmiths are found in towns and in most large villages and their craft is well paid, though the demand for their work is not large. Coppersmiths and metal-potmakers are found in the principal towns and earn more than any other metal workers. They are chiefly Christian Kánsárs from Goa.

Horn Work.

Fancy articles of cattle, deer, and bison horn are made by some carpenters and Gudigars with considerable skill at Kumta, Honávar, Siddápur, Bilgi, Sirsi, and Sonda. The demand for the work is small and in no place employs more than a few families. The horn is collected in the district, the price of a horn varying from 6d. to 2s. (4 ans.-Re.1). The articles made are small jewel-boxes, combs, snuff-boxes, cups, handles for sticks and knives, buttons, rings, and toys. A jewelry-box costs about 10s. (Rs.5) and a comb or a snuff-box 3d. to 6d. (2-4 ans.).

Cane Work.

Excellent cane work, both useful and ornamental, is made at Kárwár by Chinese workmen, who were formerly convicts in the Kárwár jail. The raw material is brought from Bombay. Of the cane articles easy-chairs cost 16s. to £1 (Rs.8-Rs.10), common

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chairs 9s. to 12s. (Rs. 4½-Rs. 6), footstools 4s. to 6s. (Rs. 2-Rs. 3), luncheon baskets 6s. to 12s. (Rs. 3-Rs. 6), ladies' work-baskets 6s. to 16s. (Rs. 3-Rs. 8), flower vases 3s. to 10s. (Rs. 1½-Rs. 5), waste-paper baskets 3s. to 8s. (Rs. 1½-Rs. 4), and cots 16s. to £2 (Rs. 8-Rs. 20).

Pottery is carried on in most towns and villages. Red pots are made above and black pots are made below the Sahyádris. The craft thrives better above the Sahyádris than on the coast. Of stone, frying pans for native wheat and rice cakes, jugs, small flat basins to store water, and other vessels are made to a small extent at Sejvad, three miles from Kárwár, and near Chandávar in Kumta. The material used is an ash-coloured porous slate found in the neighbouring quarries. No fees are charged for quarrying the stone.

Earth and Stone.

Oil-pressing is an important industry. Oil for lighting is chiefly extracted from cocoanuts and to a small extent from wild castor-seed and from the seed of the *undi* or *Colophyllum inophyllum*. The craft is followed on the coast by Ganigs and a few Christians and in the uplands by Lingáyats. The oil-presser extracts oil either on his own account or from materials supplied by husbandmen and shopkeepers. The mill, which is a rude and clumsy machine, stands in the courtyard in the house and is worked either by the hand or by a bullock. Castor and *undi* oil is used locally and large quantities of cocoanut oil are sent into the Ratnágiri ports and to Bombay. Besides in lighting *undi* oil is used in painting boats.

Oil-Pressing.

Molasses is made by most husbandmen in all parts of the district in quantities sufficient to meet the local demand. Very little leaves the district. The work begins about January and ends in May. Molasses is chiefly made from sugarcane juice which is extracted by a rude and old-fashioned mill called *gháni*. The juice is boiled in large copper or iron caldrons and stored in earthen pots. The sugarcane mill costs £5 to £6 (Rs. 50-Rs. 60). Above the Sahyádris the molasses is hardened and made into cubical blocks by means of wooden frames. Besides from sugarcane juice Bhandáris, Komárpáiks, and Christians make small quantities of molasses from palm juice by boiling it with lime. Palm juice molasses is mostly used in sweetening coffee, as it gives more flavour than sugarcane molasses.

Molasses.

Catechu is made in small quantities on the coast. To make catechu the *khair* tree *Acacia catechu* is felled at any season, and after the white wood has been removed, the heart is cut into small bits, and put, with one-half the quantity of water, into a round-bellied earthen pot. It is then boiled for about three hours; and when the decoction has become ropy, it is decanted. The same quantity of water is again added and boiled until it becomes ropy, when it is decanted, and a third supply of water is given. This extracts all the substance from the wood. The three decoctions are then mixed, and next morning boiled in small pots until the extract becomes thick like tar. It is afterwards allowed to remain in the pots for two days, when it has become so hard that it will not run. Some husks of rice are spread on the ground, and the thickened juice is formed into balls about the size of oranges which

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are placed on the husks or on leaves and left seven days in the sun to dry. During the dry season the balls are spread in the shade for two months and during the rains for four months. They are then fit for sale. The making of catechu was stopped for several years, but in 1880 a small contract was granted in Honavar, yielding about £364 (Rs. 3640).

Salt.

¹Up to 1878 salt used to be manufactured along the coast at Sánikatta, Kumta, Bhatkal, Shiráli, and Bailur. In 1878, under Government orders, all minor salt-works were closed, and at present (1882) Sánikatta, about ten miles north of Kumta, is the only place where salt is manufactured. The Sánikatta salt-work contains 176 *ágars* or salt-pans of which only 128 are in use; the rest are either waste or have been turned into rice-fields. Of the 128 in use, 119 *ágars*, containing in all 19,400 pans, were worked in 1880-81 and yielded 6555 tons of salt, or 3463 tons over the average of the three years ending 1879-80.² All Kanara salt-works are the property of private individuals who pay an acre assessment varying from 5s. 7½d. to 6s. 1½d. (Rs. 2¼ to Rs. 3⅛).

A few salt-makers do not begin work till February or even March, but most set their pans in order soon after the beginning of January. Salt is never removed from the pans before the middle of March or rather before *Shivarátra*. In preparing the pans the first thing is to bail out the rain-water which has gathered in them. This is generally done on contract by labourers who are paid 1s. to 1s. 6d. (8-12 *ans.*) the *chitta* or thirty pans. The pans vary greatly in size; on an average they are about sixteen feet long by fourteen feet broad. When the water has been bailed out the soil which was gathered during the rains is removed from the pans and eight to ten inches of salt water are let into them. The drains are closed and the water is left to evaporate. While evaporation goes on the embankments or *bándhs* and the reservoirs are repaired; and when the pans are completely dry a second supply of salt water is allowed to flow in. After this the pans are supplied with salt water every second or third day, and they are trodden one day and beaten the next until the surface hardens. The surface is then levelled and made even by drawing a plank over it, a boy or a woman standing on the plank to add to its weight. This smoothing goes on for several days until grains of salt appear here and there which are worked into the ground with a plank fastened to a long pole until a thin crust of salt forms on the surface.

The day for removing the salt from the pans is fixed by consulting the village deities. From this day forward water is let into the pans, and, except on cloudy days, salt is daily removed and is heaped at places set apart for the purpose. The work of removing the salt is done by *Ágiars* who are paid in grain. They

¹ Contributed by Mr. Kávasji Kharsetji Jamsetji, Acting Assistant Collector of Salt Revenue.

² The details are: 3856 tons in 1877-78, 2031 tons in 1878-79, and 3398 tons in 1879-80, giving an average of 3095 tons which is less by 3460 tons than 6555 tons, the produce of 1880-81.

get two *muddis* or 164 pounds of rough rice for each *chitta* or thirty pans measuring one-fifth of an acre. The average produce of a *chitta* or thirty pans is estimated at about eight and a half tons (2 *gádís* or 240 Indian *mans*). The salt is carried from the salt heaps in boats by labourers to the platform in front of the *kothárs* or salt-stores. The labourers are paid 1s. 6d. to 3s. (ans. 12-Rs. 1½) a *gádi* of four and a quarter tons. The salt is left on the platform to dry for about a fortnight, when, under the supervision of a Government officer, it is weighed and stored by labourers who are paid 1s. to 3s. (ans. 8-Rs. 1½) a *gádi*, according to the distance of the salt-store from the platform. Salt costs to make about 4d. a ton (Rs. 6½ the 120 *mans*).¹ The chief points in which Kánara salt-making differs from Konkan salt-making are that the salt is daily removed from the pans and is kept in salt-stores or *kothárs*.

Between 1874 and 1878, the Kánara salt trade was very dull, because more land than was wanted was set apart for salt-making. The supply was greater than the demand, and a large balance was always in hand at the close of each year. The result was a constant glut in the market which kept the price so low that the salt manufacturers made little or no profit. In 1878, all the works except at Sánikatta were closed. The whole trade in salt was thus thrown into the hands of the salt-owners of that place, who were not slow to realize their position and enhance the price. The price of 80 pounds (one Indian *man*) of salt rose from 2d. (1½ ans.) in May 1878 to 1s. (8 ans.) in May 1879. This continued to April 1880, when a large supply brought it down to 9d. (6 ans.), at which price it has since remained. This is the rate at which the makers sell the salt to the license-holders or retail traders who pay the duty of 5s. for eighty pounds (Rs. 2½ a *man*) and spend about 1½d. (1 *anna*) more in weighing, bagging, and carrying the salt to their shops. The total cost to the trader of eighty pounds (1 *man*) of salt is therefore 5s. 10½d. (Rs. 2½½). The wholesale license-holders generally buy their salt a little cheaper than the retail license-holders. They pay £4 (Rs. 40) the *gádi* of 4½ tons or 120 Indian *mans*, or 8d. (5½ ans.) the *man* of eighty pounds, while the retail licensees pay 9d. (6 ans.) the *man* of eighty pounds. These selling prices prevail within a distance of ten miles of the salt-works; beyond that limit prices increase proportionately to the distance travelled.

The retail license-holders do not actually retail the salt, but sell it at 6s. 7½d. for eighty pounds (Rs. 3⅝ the *man*) to consumers who can afford to buy so large a quantity at one time, and to shop-keepers who retail it to petty consumers at ¾d. (⅓ *anna*) the *sher* of thirty-two *tólis* or at about 1d. the pound or 7s. (Rs. 3½) the Indian *man*. The wholesale license-holders generally trade with up-country

¹ The details are : The total cost of making one *gádi* or 120 *mans* of salt is 7½d. (5 ans.) for raising water at the rate of 1s. 3d. (10 ans.) the *chitta* or two *gádís*; 6s. 6d. (Rs. 3½) for tilling at the rate of two *muddis* of rice or 13s. (Rs. 6½) the *chitta* or two *gádís*; 2s. (Rs. 1) for carrying the salt to the platform; 2s. (Rs. 1) for storage; and 1s. 3d. (10 ans.) for thatching salt-stores; giving the total cost of 12s. 4½d. (Rs. 6¼).

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merchants and carriers. They have their shops on the Sahyádrí roads and sell 160 to 8000 pounds (2 to 100 *mans*) at a time. Their rates are lower than those of the retail license-holders as they sell a two *man* bag at 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d. (Rs. 6½ - Rs. 6¼) or at 6s. 1½d. to 6s. 3d. for eighty pounds or Rs. 3¼ to Rs. 3½ the Indian *man*.

Steam Saw Mills.

The Kannigeri saw-mill, about five miles north of Yellápur, was started in 1875 under the supervision of Colonel W. Peyton, the Conservator of Forests, at a cost of about £6100 (Rs. 61,000). The mill lies in the heart of one of the chief Kánara forest tracts. The machinery includes four plain circular and one cross cut saw, worked by three steam engines each of twelve horse-power. The mills are in charge of a European sub-assistant conservator of forests who is a trained mechanical engineer, and who is assisted by one foreman, one head stoker, one assistant stoker, one oilman, one carpenter, two messengers, and one sweeper besides a store-keeper. The yearly cost of the establishment is £795 (Rs. 7950). The average number of hands entertained is thirty-three; when there is a press of work additional hands are taken on. In the beginning the mill worked at a profit, but in 1879-80 and 1880-81 the demand for sawn timber from Belgaum and Dhárwár fell so considerably that the working of the mill showed a small loss. In 1882 it again yielded a small profit and in 1883 and probably for several years to come the large demand from the contractors of the West of India Portuguese Railway will ensure good returns.¹

Jail Industries.

The chief jail industries are cane work, weaving, and carpentry. Between 1863 and 1870, during which there were several Chinese convicts in the jail, the cane work was excellent, but, since their release in 1870, the work has declined. Up to 1882 two handlooms turned out excellent shirt cloth, chequered table-cloths, napkins, towels, coarse cotton carpets, and coarse cloth, which had a ready sale in Kárwár. Since 1883, to encourage private enterprise, these jail industries have been stopped. Of carpentry, neat boxes, chairs, cots, tables, tools, and benches are made by long-termed prisoners.

¹ The details are: In 1875-76 a profit of £1881; in 1876-77 a profit of £666; in 1877-78 a profit of £385; in 1878-79 a profit of £389; in 1879-80 a loss of £222; in 1880-81 a loss of £227; and in 1881-82 a profit of £10.